

EDGEWOOD
JONKHEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

August 26, 1924.

Dear Mr. Deane:

Your good letter would have been answered sooner if it had not happened to arrive just as I was starting with some friends to motor down to Cambridge for two or three days.

Indeed, I think you may well be exceedingly proud of bringing to successful completion an enterprise of such extent and so full of fussy time-consuming detail as the Flora of the Boston District. You and Knowlton have certainly shown wonderful patience and staying power on that job. Is it not good to have it completed? So few long scientific jobs ever get really done!

Now I do hope that somehow or other it may be possible to reprint the Flora, as a separate, checked up and so far as possible corrected to date.

Inclosed I am sending you a highly characteristic letter from Fernald. I am delighted to hear that his expedition has turned out so well and has proved so satisfactory to him. When do you suppose that Flora of Newfoundland will get finished if every year or so he gets two or three hundreds plants not previously known on the island?

I trust you are having a delightful summer. Though I spent only a few hours in Shelburne more than twenty years ago I can still call up a clear mental image of Philbrook Farm and of the charming views it commands.

Thus far we have been having an exceedingly pleasant summer. It has been an unusually social one so far as we are concerned. From the first of July to the last week in August we had an almost continuous string of guests. Our tenants have proved very agreeable and we have seen much of them and taken with them several delightful motor rides of some length.

I have been playing tennis a great deal and enjoying it more than ever before -- two to six sets almost every day, and good lively ones too, with young people

ranging from fifteen to twenty-five. I am going to be so boastful as to tell you that I won thirteen of my first fifteen sets, notwithstanding the fact that I am approaching my sixtieth birthday and wear bifocal glasses.

Our wealthy Jaffrey summer residents, the Pope Yeatmans, have just given a gymkhana for the joint benefit of the Jaffrey Village Improvement Society and some similar organization of Peterboro. It was held on one of the large and beautiful estates in Peterboro and was very beautiful as well as full of moments of excitement. One of the most striking stunts was an egg and spoon race. This was popular and I think there must have been a dozen or fifteen young people entered. Think of trying to carry an egg on a spoon while racing around a circuitous course on a frisky young horse. There was also good jumping of high hurdles on horseback, an amusing obstacle race, and a relay race in which saddles had to be changed. One spirited young woman fell from her horse twice, her saddle coming off. This to the ordinary mortal would have seemed sufficiently discouraging, but she picked herself up, caught her horse, picked up her saddle, replaced it, mounted again each time and rode on to the end of the race.

We are this summer living in "Edgewood" and like it much better than we had anticipated. Indeed, Margaret is beginning to wonder whether she does not prefer it to the cottage which we usually occupy. "Edgewood" where we now are is the cottage we built for the Spelmans as you may remember.

The poor Spelmans, our hearts go out to them and they are much in our thoughts. You have doubtless heard of the death of their eldest daughter, Elizabeth.

The summer has seemed very short to us and in less than two weeks we have to go back to Cambridge. The British Association for the Advancement of Science has been meeting at Toronto this year and several botanists who have been to the meeting and are now traveling in America have signified their intention of visiting the Gray Herbarium between Sept 7th and Sept. 18th -- Major Chipp, the assistant director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, Prof. Ostenfeld of Copenhagen who is

probably the greatest living authority on arctic plants, and Prof. Glück of Heidelberg, who is particularly interested in water plants. The last mentioned guest I rather dread. I fancy he is something of a bear. I understand he will want to be taken about to see as many water plants as possible in their native places. It is many years since I have personally done any collecting of water plants and in the mean time our accessible water courses have been greatly changed for drainage, water supply or water power, so I am a bit at a loss.

I have twice been down to Cambridge to cheer on the work at the Gray Herbarium. On both occasions I have been much pleased at the evidence of progress. Dr. Hirschy has been doing his work excellently so far as I have been able to judge. I think we were very fortunate to secure his services as a temporary assistant. And as to Miss Sanderson, the new librarian, we were certainly in great luck to pick up a young woman who has been able so speedily to take hold of the library work in a careful and responsible way. The little fox-terrier, Miss Lesley Brown, had a chance to go to Europe on her brief vacation and is, I suppose, just on her way back. She is a bright one and doing well on the card index of new species.

Dr. Hirschy leaves at the end of next week and Weatherby is coming for the greater part of September.

Mrs. Robinson joins me in love to you.

Sincerely yours,

W. B. L. Robinson.



Robinson, Benjamin Lincoln. 1924. "Robinson, Benjamin Lincoln Aug. 26, 1924." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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